Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
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SEGA
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
DARKEST STORM
PART 1 OF 3
Anniversary 2006
15th
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG

THE DARKEST STORM
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Part One: THE GATHERING TEMPEST
I HAVE LEARNED EVERYTHING ABOUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG.
I HAVE KNOWN OF EVERY BATTLE AND VILLAIN HE HAS FACED.
OF ALL HIS FOES, HIS DEADLIEST HAVE BEEN...
...DOCTOR IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK...
...IXIS NAUGUS...
...AND MAMMOTH MOGUL.
...EACH A THREAT. HOWEVER...
I AM THE NEW FORCE THAT WILL DISPOSE OF THEM AND SONIC.
I AM CALLED ANONYMOUS.
Special thanks to DYNA LOPEZ and ROBERT LEFFLER at SEGA LICENSING.

I HAVE DECIDED TO USE KNOT-HOLE, HOME TO SONIC.
A NEW AND UNTESTED KING SEEKS TO REVIVE THE OLD WAYS...
...SO IN LIGHT OF YOUR SERVICES TO MY FATHER, I WOULD GLADLY RETURN YOUR KNIGHTHOOD.*
I APPRECIATE IT, ELIAS... ER, YOUR MAJESTY... BUT I DON'T NEED A TITLE TO KEEP ME COOL.
COME NOW, SONIC. KNIGHTHOOD IS A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR.
COOLER THAN "HERO OF EVERYTHING"? NAA, UNCLE CHUCK, IT'S COOL. BESIDES, THERE'S ALREADY A KNIGHT IN THE FAMILY-- YOU!
*SS# 78 AND # 93.
THAT'S ONE REASON I ASKED FOR YOU, SIR CHARLES. IT'S ALSO WHY I HOPED YOU WOULD ACCEPT, SONIC.
EVEN DURING THE GREAT WAR, MY FATHER COULD RELY ON HIS KNIGHTS AND THE COURT OF ACORN...
NOW I AM KING AND MY PEOPLE ARE STILL AT WAR WITH DR. EGGMAN.
IF I AM GOING TO LEAD US TO PEACE, I NEED SUPPORT. I NEED A NEW COURT OF ACORN.
STARTING WITH ANYONE WHO REMAINS FROM THE OLD COURT.
PARDON ME, BUT IS A YOUNG MASTER PROWER IN?
WHA--? WHO'S LOOKING FOR ME?

YOUR UNCLE, CHOSEN ONE, I AM *MERLIN PROWER.*

R-REALLY? ATHAIR TOLD ME ABOUT YOU*... BUT... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO... I'VE NEVER HAD...

I KNOW, MILES. I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN KEPT AWAY FROM YOU FOR SO LONG.

*S #149.

I AM HERE NOW, THOUGH, AND I PROMISE TO HELP REBUILD OUR FAMILY.

I'M JUST HAPPY TO FINALLY HAVE SOMEBODY BACK!

I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME, BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST SPEAK WITH THE KING RIGHT AWAY.

÷SNIFF÷ IT'S *OKAY*, AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE TO STAY. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SEE THE KING FOR?

HE HOLDS PART OF THE KEY TO SAVING THE ANCIENT *WALKERS*... AND TO KEEPING *HIM* SAFELY TRAPPED.

MAMMOTH MOGUL!

*S #150

AS THE MOBIANS TRY TO REBUILD...
...DOCTOR EGGMAN QUICKLY WORKS TO DESTROY.
I HAVE AN UPDATE FOR YOU, FATHER.
GIVE DADDY SOME GOOD NEWS, A.D.A.M.!
YOUR EGG GRAPES ARE NEARLY COMPLETE. SENSORS READ 99% BIOFIELD-DELETION.
FANTASTIC!
FATHER?
YOU SEE, M, THIS MEANS I CAN SOON MOVE ON TO MY NEXT PHASE!
ONCE THE ERASURES ARE COMPLETE, I WILL SYPHON POWER OUT OF THE *ZONE OF SILENCE*, PURIFYING IT THROUGH THE EGG GRAPES, GIVING ME THE RAW ENERGY OF AN ENTIRE *DIMENSION!*
WHY DRAIN THE MOBIANS?
SO THAT THEIR EMPTY HUSKS WILL ACT AS A KIND OF FILTER!
IS THERE NOT A MORE EFFICIENT WAY? CAN YOU NOT REACH YOUR VISION...
...IN A QUICKER WAY?
OH, I'M SURE I CAN.
BUT WHERE WOULD THE *FUN* BE IN THAT?

VERY GOOD, FATHER.
I THOUGHT SO. A.D.A.M.!
YES, FATHER?
TELL ME YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED THE INDIVIDUAL WHO CALLED HIMSELF "ANONYMOUS." *
I AM AFRAID NOT, FATHER. I AM INDESCRIBABLY SORRY.
THEN RE-DOUBLE YOUR SEARCHING EFFORTS!
YES, FATHER.
*S# 135
I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE FROM THAT HEDGEHOG WITHOUT SOME UPSTART BOTHERING ME.
ALTHOUGH HE PRESENTED HIMSELF BEARING GIFTS, STEALING MY ROBOTIZATION TECHNIQUE IS UNFORGIVABLE.**
THEN HE SET MY NANITES TO SPREADING*** I WAS SAVING THOSE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!
**ALSO S# 135
***S# 152--KINDA
NOW THAT I'M SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING GETTING IN MY WAY.

I HAVE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIVINE INTERVENTION.
HOWEVER, THE GOD-LIKE ANCIENT WALKERS ARE EASY ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH.
MERLIN PROWER IS ON HIS WAY.
PLEASE HOLD ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
OUR PRESERVATION IS NO LONGER UNDER OUR CONTROL.
SINCE THE COMING OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS, WE HAVE WATCHED LIFE ON MOBIUS FLOURISH. WE HAVE JUDICIOUSLY ACTED TO PRESERVE THE WORLD FROM DARKNESS. FOR OUR DILIGENCE, WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK A MORTAL BLOW. OUR POWER IS FAILING.
WE HAVE SELECTED YOU ... AURORA, YOU ... ATHAIR, AND MERLIN PROWER TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF THE CHAOS FORCE AND TO PROTECT THE WORLD IN OUR STEAD. OUR GRIP ON LIFE IS SLIPPING. ANY ONE EVENT COULD TAKE US AWAY.
WE FORESEE A GREAT STORM APPROACHING.
YOU MUST BE PREPARED.

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF!
QUITE ALL RIGHT, TAILS. YOUR UNCLE HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. I AM SIR CONNERY. ONCE A KNIGHT TO KING MAXIMILIAN ACORN.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ?
I WAS SUMMONED BY THE ANCIENT WALKERS. I HAD COMPLETED MY WORK WHEN THEY SENT ME TO GUARD MERLIN.
GUARD HIM? FROM WHO?
FROM THE DESTRUCTIX!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, TAILS! GET THAT CHAOS EMERALD!
R-RIGHT!
BACK OFF!
DON'T TOY WITH HIM, PREDATOR HAWK. I HEAR REENFORCE-MENTS COMING.

VARLET! YOU SHALL BE SMOTE!
NO--!
DO YOUR JUGULAR A FAVOR AND STAY DOWN!
HOW ARE YOU DOING, FLYING FROG?
CAN'T CAST A SPELL IF HE CAN'T TAKE A BREATH!
HOW'S YOUR DINNER COMING, PREDATOR HAWK?
ALL TOO EASY.
SMACK!
GET THAT SWORD READY, SLEUTH DOGG.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL DO ME MUCH GOOD, SERGEANT SIWAN!
OOF!

DUDE, NOT MUCH SETS ME OFF, BUT WHEN YOU GO AFTER TAILS, YOU'RE ASKING FOR...
...SERIOUS TROUBLE!
AW, I'M OKAY, SONIC!
SO-- DESTRUCTIX, HUH?
YOU HEARD THAT?
I THINK THEY HEARD YOU IN FURVILLE.
WE CAN'T BE THE FEARSOME FOURSOME ANYMORE. THERE'S SIX OF US.
FAIR ENOUGH. JUST SURPRISED YOU CAN COUNT.
NEW TEAM NAME, SAME OLD LAMENESS.
REGARDLESS, WE MUST GET TO KING ACORN IMMEDIATELY.
GO ON. THE CHAOTIX AND I WILL CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

A NEW KING
OUR HEROES,
SAME FATE

EACH WAS MADE
THE THE
WORK WILL
FOR NAUGHT

YOUR TIMING COULDN
BE BETTER, MERLIN.
PROWER! SIR CONNERY
PLEASE RISE AND TELL
ME WHAT HAS BROUGHT
YOU HOME

I WAS CALLED FROM YOUR
FATHER'S SERVICE BY THE
ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY
GAVE ME THIS. THE *SWORD
OF LIGHT*--TO PURGE THE
WORLD OF DARK MAGIC
WITH THAT DUTY ENDED
THEY CHARGED ME WITH
GUARDING MERLIN PROWER
AND HIS PRECIOUS
CAPTIVE

IMMORTHMOGUL MY
RECENTLY
CREATED AND TRAPPED
WITH HIS OWN CHAOS
EMERALD. HE FELL
A TRAPSET BY THE
ANCIEN WALKERS
LONG AGO

SWISH

THOUSANDS OF
YEARS AGO THE
ANCIENT WALKERS
FORESAW MOGUL
BEATHEAD AND
THEY REFUSED TO
COMBAT DESTINY
THEY DIVORCE
THE EMERALD THAT
MOGUL WAS FATED
TO OBTAIN

MOGUL USED
POWER AND THE
CHAOS EMERALD
ALMOST HIMSELF
A KEY MISCHIEF
MENT UNTIL HE
WAS ULTIMATELY
TRAPPED
WITHIN

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

ONCE HE WAS FREE OF THE MASTER EMERALD* MOGUL USED THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH

TO WOUND THE ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY HAVE BEEN DYING EVER SINCE

*SONIC #19

IF THEY DIE THEIR CHARM OVER THE EMERALD WILL BREAK AND MOGUL WILL BE FREE

THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?

SINCE YOU'VE COME TO ME, I'M GUESSING I CAN HELP SOMEHOW.

INDEED; YOUR CROWN AND ITS MATE--THE *SWORD OF ACORN* - ARE ESSENTIAL TO SAVING THE ANCIENT WALKERS.

THE CROWN? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT AND THE SWORD?

I'LL ANSWER THAT FOR YOURSELVES

HELLO

GREAT ATLANTIS, PERSONAL BROTHER

THEY WERE MADE FROM A PURE SAMPLE OF THE *SOURCE OF ALL*, THE SUBSTANCE THAT IS THE BASE MATERIAL FOR EVERYTHING. HE CAN CHANNEL AND PROJECT VAST AMOUNTS OF MAGICAL ENERGY.

IT HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF POWER FOR THE ACORN VILLAGE SINCE THE FIRST KING.

BUT THE REST OF IT WAS PROBABLY NUKED WITH THE REST OF ROBOTROPOLIS *

*SAM, O

I GAVE THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE ORPHANS OF UMA ARACHNIS WHEN IT SEEMED TO BE GROWING TOO COMMANDING **

I WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD BE SEPARATED. WE MUST FIND THE SWORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**SONIC

YOU WON'T START YOUR SEARCH EMPTY HANDED. I CAN GIVE THE CROWN OF ACORNS TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE FROM A FUTURE THREAT

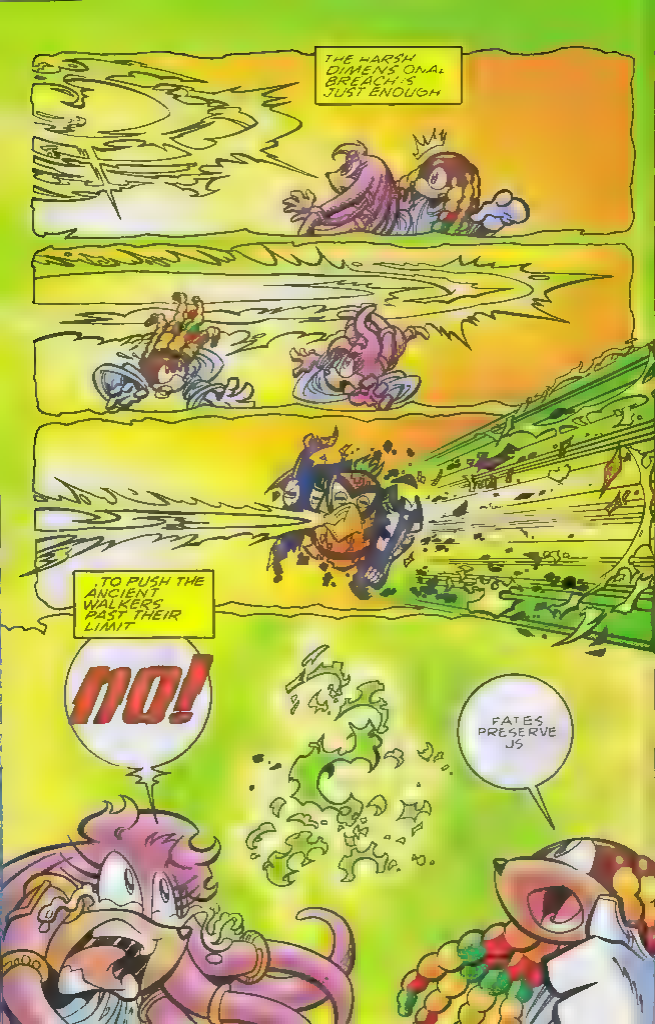
THANK YOU, KING ELIAS. THAT MEANS WE CAN STILL HOPE

OF COURSE YOU CAN. HOPE YOU'VE GOT THE ONE AND ONLY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERE

[illegible]

TELL YA, KID! YOU LOOK LIKE SOME HOPELESS EXPRESSIONS ALL DAY!
SMASH!
BAD!
STORM
ZKAT!

LOCK DOWN THE 30 RAPE CHAMBER AND ...
YES, FATHER.
ONE ACT OF FAITH, THEY LET OFF THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT I HAVE DESIRED!


THE HARSH DIMENSIONAL BREACH IS JUST ENOUGH
TO PUSH THE ANCIENT WALKERS PAST THEIR LIMIT
no!
FATES PRESERVE US

THANK YOU ALL WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND THIS PROMISING BEGINNING WE MAY NOW
AUGH!
UNCLE MERLIN!
A VAIL ANT ATTEMPT LADEN PROWER
PHASE ONE-- COMPLETE
TO BE CONTINUED

SNIVELY KINTOBOR WAS ONCE DR. EGGMAN' ROBOTNIK CHIEF TOADY AND ONE OF HIS FEW REMAINING RELATIVES. THE OTHER, HOPE KINTOBOR, IS A YOUNG ORPHAN UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NOW, LIKE HOPE, SNIVELY LIVES WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS... BUT FOR HOW LONG?

TIES THAT BIND

WRITER IAN FLYNN

PENCILS TRACY HARDLEY

COLORS JEANNA LEVESQUE TRACEY DECKER

INKS JIM AMASH

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I DON'T BELONG WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS... DO I?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH SOME VILLAINOUS FORCE WHETHER I WAS A LACKEY OR THE LEADER. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AT ODDS WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

AND THEN THERE'S HOPE ORPHANED - LEFT BEHIND BY HER PEOPLE. EVEN RELATED TO ME AND UNCLE ROBOTNIK.

AND STILL SHE'S FOUND HER PLACE AMONG THESE ANIMALS AND IS HAPPY.

VOL. 2

BVMMMMMM...

IK!
I I I AM I BUT I...
WE'RE THE EYE OF MY GREATEST RETALIATION STRIKE
NOBODY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS NOR ANONYMOUS-NOR CLEVERE
YOU VE SERVED ME THE LONGEST AND THE BEST OF ALL OF MY CRONIES SO I'M GIVING YOU THIS ONE CHANCE TO RETURN TO ME
I'M TIRED OF ALLOWING KNOTHOLE TO EXIST. I WILL BE MAKING MY MOVE VERY SOON. YOU CAN EITHER COME WITH ME OR...
GIVE ME JUST A MINUTE PLEASE

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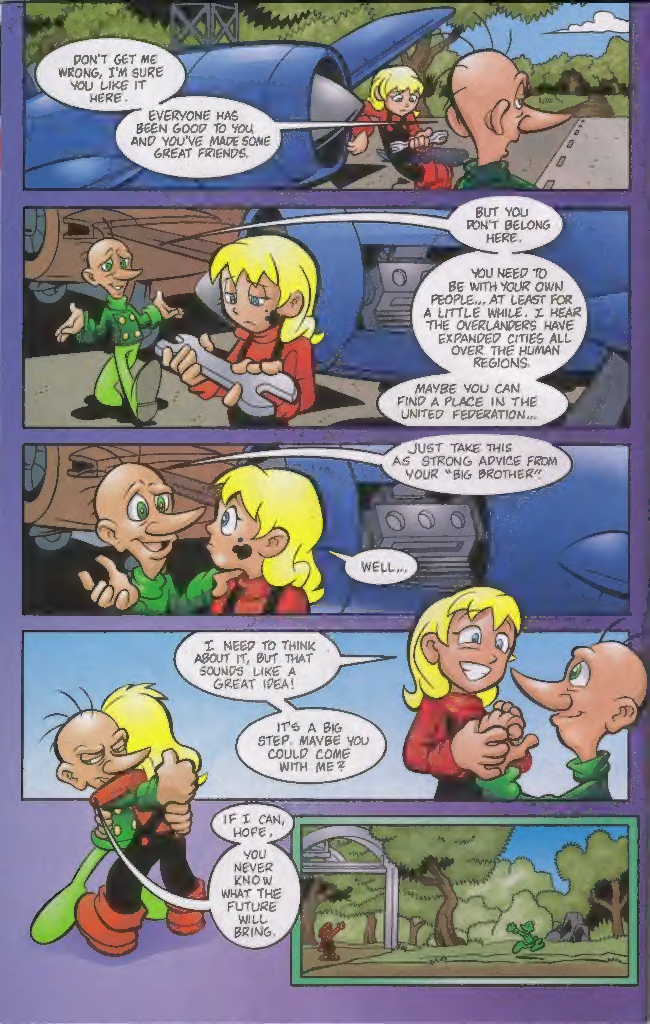
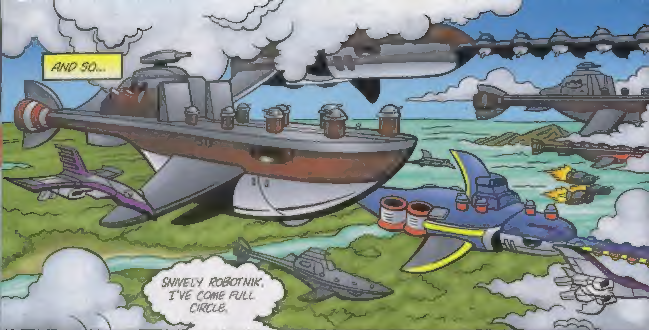
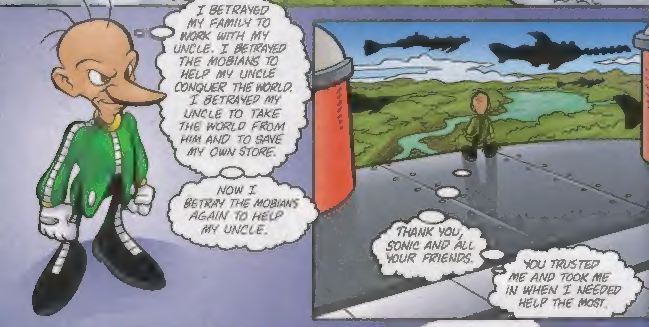
YOU CAN MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS AD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CUT YOUR BOOK.

HOPE!!!
SNIVELY?
ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST... WINDED...
LISTEN-- SINCE YOU'RE FAMILY...
...I THOUGHT...
...I DON'T KNOW IF...
...BUT YOU SEE...
YOU'RE BUILDING YOUR OWN PLANE, huh?
YEP! SIR CHARLES SAID I WAS GOING TO ACE MY PROJECT FOR THE YEAR FOR SURE!
IT COULD TAKE YOU FAR AWAY FROM HERE...
WHAT?


DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M SURE YOU LIKE IT HERE.
EVERYONE HAS BEEN GOOD TO YOU AND YOU'VE MADE SOME GREAT FRIENDS.
BUT YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.
YOU NEED TO BE WITH YOUR OWN PEOPLE... AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I HEAR THE OVERLANDERS HAVE EXPANDED CITIES ALL OVER THE HUMAN REGIONS.
MAYBE YOU CAN FIND A PLACE IN THE UNITED FEDERATION...
JUST TAKE THIS AS STRONG ADVICE FROM YOUR "BIG BROTHER"
WELL...
I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
IT'S A BIG STEP. MAYBE YOU COULD COME WITH ME?
IF I CAN, HOPE.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

THAT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH. HAVE YOU DECIDED?
A WISE MOVE.
STILL, I HAVE TO ASK. HOW CAN YOU TRUST ME? WE'VE TRIED TO DO EACH OTHER IN BEFORE.
I HAVE, UNCLE. LET'S GO.
YOU WANT TO RULE THE WORLD TOO BADLY TO UNDERMINE ME YET. AND I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU THE NEXT TIME YOU TRY.
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.





NEXT ISSUE THINGS REALLY HEAT UP FOR SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! DON'T MISS SONIC # 163 ON SALE JUNE

AND, JOIN SONIC'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY MAYHEM IN SONIC X #10, ON SALE JUNE

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